

Documents on Diplomacy: Lessons

McKinley's Shopping Network

Standard: II. Time, Continuity, and Change
V. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
IX. Global Connections

Grade Level: 9–12 (comparisons)

Objectives: The student will:

- Compare McKinley's instructions to the results of the peace commission
- Revisit the Treaty of 1898 and determine what was gained from the Spanish-American War
- Evaluate whether McKinley's shopping list was completed with regard to the Philippines

Time: 1 class period

Materials: Documents: **1898** *William McKinley on the Acquisition of the Philippines*
1898 *Treaty of Paris*

Exercises: *McKinley's Shopping List*

Pencil & paper
Textbook

Procedures:

Setting the Stage

After reading a report from the Naval Board on the demise of the *Maine*, President McKinley sent a dispatch to Madrid calling for a protocol to end the war with Spain; the Spaniards sent an Armistice Protocol in August 1898. McKinley then carefully selected the five members of the Peace Commission tasked with negotiating the treaty.

McKinley sent the commissioners pre-negotiation instructions on what he wanted to achieve; we might call them his "shopping list." The commissioners then tried to check the items off his list during negotiations. It is interesting to compare McKinley's instructions to the commissioners' actual achievements.

This is a simple lesson of comparing and contrasting outcomes. [Marzano's *What Works in Schools*, highly rates comparative activities.]

- 1.** Give each student a copy of the Document: *William McKinley on the Acquisition of the Philippines* and a copy of the exercise, *McKinley's Shopping List*. Ask them to pretend they are part of the Peace Commission receiving this set of instructions and that they cannot refer to their instructions during the negotiations. They must make an abbreviated list of what the President wants accomplished. Students should then read the document and fill in the first column.
- 2.** When all are finished, discuss what everyone has on the list so all the "commissioners" have the same information.
- 3.** Distribute again or ask students to find their copy of the *1898 Treaty of Paris* and match the gains made in the treaty with the "shopping list" that they are holding. Put check marks beside the items on the shopping list.
- 4.** Discuss again with the whole class to determine if all of McKinley's goals were met.
- 5.** Have students write a paragraph evaluating the results of the negotiation to send as a dispatch to President McKinley in December 1898. ■